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scent ceremony. The list of those of the later centuries includes the names of Rabbi Ben Saccai, Saadia, Reuchlin and Pfefferkorn, Sir Moses Montefiore and Rabbi Isaac M. Wise, with many others. Each is considered in connection with contemporaneous events, and a flood of light is thus thrown on the progress of the Jewish religion. The reader turns to the chapter on the Talmud with hopeful anticipations, but his clouded conception of that remarkable work does not become clearer, since the best illustration of its voluminous contents which the author can give is this: "If you could collect, of all the newspapers published in four or five countries during the last four hundred years, at least one copy for every year and paper; if you could take this material—leaders, essays, news, reviews—string them together without title or chronological order, and publish them in book form, you would have a literary production somewhat similar to the Talmud." The Bible, says the rabbi, has long since ceased to be regarded by the Jews as a work of inspiration, and this belief is attributed to the fact that the underlying principles of Judaism have undergone a change. The same, substantially, is said of the Jewish belief in a coming Messiah. Unless this be the work of an extreme radical in the Hebrew fold, we think the average reader will be surprised at, as well as interested in, the unfolding of the doctrines now held by this ancient people. But the author plainly avows, in the closing chapter on "The Present Hour," that it is difficult to formulate the belief of the modern Jew. "Under conditions as they are, it is an absolute impossibility to establish a definition of the term [Judaism] which would suit the many heads and many brains which compose what we call the Jewish community."

IV.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A useful little handbook of social customs, entitled "Hints About Men's Dress,"* by a New York clubman, has just been issued and will serve to answer many questions from the curious and uninitiated in such important matters.

Lee & Shepard issue several valuable reprints and some original works in their Good Company series. Miss Frances Power Cobbe's treatise on "Religious Duty"† presents the moral aspects of Christianity from an intelligent stand-point, and will repay perusal. The range of topics is not exactly limited by the title of the book, since it includes not only religious obligations, but also religious offences, such as blasphemy, apostacy, hypocrisy, perjury, sacrilege, etc., and religious faults, such as thanklessness, irreverence, prayerlessness, impenitence, scepticism, worldliness. The obligations enumerated are thanksgiving, adoration, prayer, repentance, faith, and self-consecration. Miss Cobbe's writings are pervaded by a true and spiritual fervor, and, while they reflect her theological views as a Unitarian, are edifying and helpful to a remarkable degree. Richard Steele's papers on "The Lover,"‡ and other selected topics from *The Englishman* and other periodicals, which delighted our grandfathers and grandmothers, make pleasant reading for this generation, if only to serve the purpose of showing how very much human nature of to-day resembles that of previous generations.

*"Hints about Men's Dress. Right Principles Economically Applied." By a New York Clubman. D. Appleton & Co.

†"Religious Duty." By Frances Power Cobbe. Lee & Shepard.

‡"The Lover," and Selected Papers from *The Englishman*, etc., etc. By Richard Steele. Lee & Shepard.

Douglas Jerrold's "Fireside Saints,"* "Mr. Caudle's Breakfast Talks," and other papers are also included in this series, and have a certain classical interest, besides their faculty of making entertainment. The same may be said of Leigh Hunt's "Wishing-Cap Papers,"† to which the publishers append the note "Now First Collected." There is something particularly charming about this writer, and the papers given are just of that variety which whiles away time and tends to restfulness and contentment in the reader. "Dreamthorp, a Book of Essays Written in the Country,"‡ by Alexander Smith, is couched in a thoughtful vein, and appeals to the better instincts of human nature. Among the topics dwelt upon are "On Death and the Fear of Dying," in which are some admirable and helpful reflections, and "On the Importance of a Man to Himself," in which is abundance of wise and practical philosophy worth absorbing into one's mental self. There are also other papers.

Mr. N. R. Waters, in his book, "Rome or Reason,"§ gives a very frank and lucid autobiography of his experiences through an intellectual and spiritual groping after truth which lasted for many years. These brought him through the dogmas of the Protestant religion, which he discovered to be "founded on sand," to the calm authoritativeness of Roman Catholicism, and onward to a period of doubt, negation, and moral incertitude, followed at last by settled peace and satisfaction in the acceptance of conscience and duty as the great guides for humanity. The tone of the book is reverential towards sacred things, but positive in its discarding of what is understood as theology, "especially the patristic and Calvinistic theology which claims the name of orthodox."

Mr. Hittell gives, in his little manual,§ some exceedingly good advice as to the conduct of life from the stand-point of pure and lofty secularism. And to a great deal here advanced the Christian moralist will not be disposed to take exception, though the author is not in sympathy with Christianity as a faith and system.

Under a title whose suitableness is not at once apparent,** a half-dozen sermons by as many ministers are collected. Each was delivered at some Unitarian convention in this country or in Europe within the past six years, and, naturally enough, each illustrates some leading tenet of the Unitarian faith. It will not attract the attention of a large class of readers, since a peculiarly narrow conception of things spiritual inheres in nearly all portions of the book. The names of the authors are sufficiently well known to indicate a high grade of literary workmanship and considerable eloquence.

*"Fireside Saints," "Mr. Caudle's Breakfast Talk," and other papers. By Douglas Jerrold. Lee & Shepard.

†"The Wishing-Cap Papers." By Leigh Hunt. Lee & Shepard.

‡"Dreamthorp. A Book of Essays Written in the Country." By Alexander Smith. Lee & Shepard.

§ "Rome or Reason: A Memoir of Christian and extra-Christian Experience." By Nathaniel Ramsay Waters. New York: Charles P. Somerby.

§ "A Code of Morals." By John S. Hittell. San Francisco: The Bancroft Company.

**"Show Us the Father." By M. J. Savage, S. R. Calthrop, H. M. Simmons, J. W. Chadwick, W. C. Gannett, J. L. Jones. Chicago: Charles H. Kerr & Co.